

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DRAFT MED REPORT

REF: A) USNATO 1768, B) USNATO 1798

1. THIS FIRST DRAFT IS GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER LAST FALL'S FIRST EFFORT, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF AVOIDANCE OF PITFALLS, AS POINTED OUT REF B. WE ESPECIALLY WELCOME INFORMATIVE AND WELL-WRITTEN ANNEX ON SOVMEDRON. IN VIEW OF UNCERTAINTIES STILL SURROUNDING NEXT STEPS IN MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, WE WILL HAVE NO SPECIAL INPUT ON THIS SUBJECT, EXCEPT TO POINT OUT THAT SITUATION IS NOT "ALTOGETHER NEW" IN VIEW OF SADAT'S

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REFUSAL TO RULE OUT RESUMPTION OF STEP-BY-STEP

NEGOTIATIONS.

2. SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT TEXT, KEYED TO PARAS
REFTEL A, FOLLOW.

PARA 3. REPLACE "FAILURE" WITH "SUSPENSION" AND DELETE
"ALTOGETHER." REASON - SITUATION REMAINS AMBIGUOUS.

PARA 4. SECOND SENTENCE SHOULD BEGIN, "THE POSTPONEMENT
WAS INTERPRETED IN EGYPT AS A CONSIDERABLE SNUB FOR
MR. SADAT." IN THIRD SENTENCE, DELETE FROM
"THE DEFENCE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS" TO END OF
SENTENCE, AND MAKE OPENING PHRASE THE OPENING FOR
THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE. REASON - NEITHER "HASTE"
NOR "BLANK WALL" IS SUFFICIENTLY NUANCED, AND SADAT'S
WORDS ARE CLEARER INDICATION THAN SPECULATION ON
MOTIVES FOR TRIP.

PARA 5. DELETE "AND BEFORE GOING ON TO BAGHDAD."
SECOND SENTENCE SHOULD READ, "DESPITE HIS VISIT, THE
MAIN CAUSES OF DISCORD CLEARLY REMAINED UNRESOLVED."
ADD SENTENCE, "MEANWHILE, THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER SCHEDULED A VISIT TO MOSCOW BEGINNING
APRIL 19." REASON - FACTUAL ACCURACY.

PARA 6. REPLACE "FIRMLY ESTABLISHED" IN FIRST
SENTENCE WITH "FURTHER INGRATIATED." IN THIRD
SENTENCE, DELETE FROM "HE HAS TURNED TO THE
PALESTINIANS" THROUGH "MORE SURPRISINGLY." REASON -
PALESTINIANS ARE NOT EQUIVALENT TO SOVIETS, AND
GESTURE TOWARD THEM WAS NOT AN ALTERNATIVE TO
SOVIET SUPPORT.

PARA 7. REPLACE "NEW-FOUND WARMTH" WITH "IMPROVEMENT"
AND DELETE "UNABATED" IN FIRST SENTENCE. REASON -
HYPERBOLY NOT JUSTIFIED.

PARA 8. FIRST SENTENCE SHOULD BEGIN, "THE USSR HAS
INCREASED ITS SUPPORT OF THE PLO." ADD FOLLOWING TO
PENULTIMATE SENTENCE, "WHERE HE CALLED FOR THE
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FORMATION OF A PALESTINIAN 'STATE', A THEME WHICH
NOW APPEARS TO BE THE SOVIET LINE." REPLACE FINAL
SENTENCE WITH FOLLOWING, "THE SOVIETS ALSO NOW REFER
TO THE PLO AS THE "SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE"
OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE." REASON - MORE INFORMATIVE
AND ACCURATE.

PARA 9. DELETE ENTIRE PARA AS INACCURATE AND

UNGERMAINE.

PARA 10. REPLACE FINAL SENTENCE WITH FOLLOWING, "THE SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE CONCERNED THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE COULD LEAD TO A LESSENING OF BAGHDAD'S MILITARY DEPENDENCE ON MOSCOW. REASON - MORE

INFORMATIVE.

NEW PARA AFTER 12. "PARTICIPATION OF THE SOVMEDRON IN THE WORLDWIDE SOVIET NAVAL EXERCISE OKEAN 75 HAS BEEN PURPOSEFULLY LOW KEY AND CONDUCTED WELL REMOVED FROM THE SENSITIVE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AREAS."

PARA 13. NEW OPENING, "SADAT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE CANAL WILL BE REOPENED ON JUNE 5. IT IS TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE TO REOPEN THE CANAL WITH THE DIMENSIONS BEING APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AS IN 1967 (MAXIMUM DRAUGHT 38 FT.)." REASON - ACCURACY.

PARA 15. BEGIN FIRST SENTENCE WITH WORD "EVEN" AND REPLACE "PROBABLY BEEN ASSURED" WITH "CONTINUED TO SEEK SOVIET ASSURANCE." IN SECOND SENTENCE, REPLACE VERB "WOULD HAVE BEEN" WITH "WAS PROBABLY." REASON - ACCURACY.

PARA 16. IN SECOND SENTENCE, REPLACE "WOULD" WITH "PROBABLY." DELETE "WOULD" IN THIRD SENTENCE. IN FINAL SENTENCE, INSERT "REPORTEDLY" BEFORE "PROMISED" AND "PERHAPS" BEFORE "MIG 23 (FLOGGER)". REASON - ACCURACY.

PARA 17. REPLACE FINAL SENTENCE WITH FOLLOWING, "IT
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HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE GOING TO ADVISE THE LIBYANS ON CONSTRUCTION OF A NAVAL BASE AT TUBRUK, WHICH COULD SERVE AS BASE FOR THE SUBMARINES THE SOVIETS ARE REPORTEDLY PROVIDING THE LIBYANS." REASON - WE CANNOT CONFIRM THAT SOVIETS WILL BE GIVEN FULL ACCESS TO FUTURE FACILITIES.

PARA 22. SHOULD BE REWRITTEN WITH LESS ROSY IMPRESSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN USSR AND EGYPT AND MAKING SOME MENTION OF IMPASSE OVER RESCHEDULING OF DEBT.

PARA 25. REWRITE AS FOLLOWS, "THE KREMLIN HARBORED RESENTMENT AGAINST EGYPT BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN KEPT OUT OF THE DIPLOMATIC MOVES MADE UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE

UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE AND BECAUSE EGYPT HAD NOT ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE EARLY RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF WHAT MOSCOW HAS VIEWED AS AN EFFORT BY SADAT TO UNDERMINE THE SOVIET POSITION NOT ONLY IN EGYPT BUT ELSEWHERE IN

THE ARAB WORLD." REASON - ACCURACY. FINAL SENTENCE OMITTED SINCE IT IS NOT YET CLEAR THAT THE SITUATION HAS "RADICALLY" CHANGED, IN VIEW OF SADAT'S LUKE-WARM ATTITUDE TOWARD GENEVA AND REFUSAL TO RULE OUT OTHER AVENUES.

PARA 26. REWRITE AS FOLLOWS, "DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS, SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS HAVE REMAINED COOL. THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE NO BONES ABOUT THEIR DISAPPROVAL OF EGYPTIAN POLICY. SOVIETS UNWILLINGNESS TO REPLACE EGYPTIAN ARMAMENT LOSSES RESULTING FROM THE OCTOBER WAR AND TO RESCHEDULE THE EGYPTIAN DEBT PLAINLY SIGNIFIED MOSCOW'S DISPLEASURE. TO THIS MUST BE ADDED THE PRIVILEGED TREATMENT OPENLY ACCORDED TO SYRIA WHICH, MORE SUBTLY PERHAPS, WAS AN IMPLIED CRITICISM OF EGYPT." REASON - MORE ACCURATE AND CONCISE. LAST SENTENCE OF DRAFT IS DELETED BECAUSE SYRIA NEEDS NO SOVIET LICENSE TO ADOPT AN INDEPENDENT STANCE IN THE CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL.

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PARA 27. DELETE FOURTH SENTENCE, BEGINNING "ANOTHER POINT" AND ENDING "ARAFAT IN DAMASCUS." REASON - GROMYKO DID NOT IN FACT GO TO BAGHDAD. REWRITE SIXTH SENTENCE AS FOLLOWS, "THE SOVIET UNION UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDED TO KEEP SADAT ON A SHORT LEASH, FOR EXAMPLE, BY RESUMING ARMS DELIVERIES ON A CAREFULLY LIMITED SCALE." REASON - FAR FROM PLAYING "HARD-TO-GET", MOSCOW IS RATHER BRAZENLY EAGER FOR BETTER RELATIONS, ON ITS OWN TERMS.

PARA 28. IN PENULTIMATE SENTENCE, DELETE "CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE."

PARA 29. DELETE PARENTHETICAL REFERENCE TO PALESTINIAN/EGYPTIAN RELATIONS AS TOO SIMPLE A DESCRIPTION OF A COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP. DELETE FINAL THOUGHT OF PARA, FOLLOWING "THIRD WORLD" AS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE AND QUESTIONABLE.

PARA 30. DELETE AS OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS.

PARA 31. REPLACE FINAL SENTENCE WITH FOLLOWING,

"THE SOVIETS HAVE RECENTLY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF THEIR DECLARATIONS OF WARSHIPS SOUTHBOUND TRANSITS OF THE TURKISH STRAITS BY FORTY (40) PERCENT ABOVE THE MONTHLY AVERAGE FOR LAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE

DECLARATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN HONORED, THE SOVIETS HAVE PROVIDED THEMSELVES WITH THE OPTION OF REINFORCING THEIR MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON ON AN ACCELERATED BASIS UP TO THE LIMIT OF AVAILABLE WARSHIPS IN THE BLACK SEA.

PARA 36. DELETE "SKILLFULLY" FROM FIRST SENTENCE. DELETE REFERENCE TO RENEWAL OF TWO UN MANDATES, SINCE THIS WILL BE OBE VERY SOON.

ANNEX PARA 5. ADD FOLLOWING FINAL SENTENCE, "THEIR RECENT INCREASE IN DECLARATIONS SEEMS DESIGNED TO ALLEVIATE THIS PROBLEM."

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ANNEX PARA 6. ADD FOLLOWING FINAL SENTENCE, "TO AN INCREASING DEGREE, THE SOVMEDRON REQUIREMENTS FOR OCEAN RECONNAISSANCE CAN BE MET THROUGH EMPLOYMENT OF RADAR AND ELINT SATELLITES."
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